



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

January 2008  
Volume 12 Number 1  
Whole Number 143

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
9 January 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:03PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Eleven members and two guests were present. The treasurer's report from November and December was read and approved. There were no minutes from the December White Elephant Sale but the results of \$146 were noted. Correspondence included a request from the Nashua Library to change the location of our April 9 meeting. Instead of the usual East Wing it will be in the Music/Art/Media Wing on the same floor. Also under correspondence was a new coin oriented website [www. oldcoinnews. com](http://www.oldcoinnews.com) for numismatic items from the news on the web as well as an ANA package to update our club contact information and further information regarding our clubs involvement with the ANA. From old business, a vote was taken regarding a gift subscription of Coin World from the club to the library. The matter was approved and we will pay the \$41 for the subscription and provide labels to the library indicating our meeting times.

Nominations for office were opened and uncontested. The election results were:

President	Cliff LoVerme
Vice President	Fred Liberatore
	Charlie Dube
	Steve Pearsall
Secretary Treasurer	Todd Salmon
Director	Bob Fritsch

Todd Salmon will also remain as the Librarian and Randy Bullis will continue as Editor.

Our guest was Robert Drew who is a District Representative for the ANA. He spoke of the changes to the club listings including updating the club contacts. Robert also shared his Utah coin club experience and his interest in currency. He is now a member.

Coin of the Month was small cents from around the world. Fred had a roll of cents from a bank in Bermuda that he

opened for the first time in front of us. There were many different types of cents including some from Canada, US, and Britain. Bob had a box of world cents that he passed around. Steve brought in some high end slabs including 1883 PF64RB and 1860 MS62 Indian, 1945 MS66RD, 1939-S MS65RD, and 1944-S MS66 RD Lincolns. He also brought in his childhood cent book of 1941 to present Lincolns. Todd brought in his 1909 PF65RB Matte Proof Lincoln.

The COTM raffle had an unc 1957-D Lincoln, 1963 Austrian schilling, 1995 Ireland, 1970 Barbados, 1943 Canadian, 1977 Bermuda, a blank planchet, and a 1940-D au Lincoln. The pot was won by Ken Camilleis.

The attendance raffle of \$3.50 was won by Ken Young.

Show and Tell had Bob with his new NH town medal book by Sam Allen and a Swiss aviary medal. Charlie had photos from his trip to Egypt and Chinese coins of questionable origin. He also showed an 1892-O barber half. Ken did a guess the grade on an 1832 dime that turned out to be graded MS64 by NGC. Gil and our guest Santiago won with the closest guesses. Gil showed his recently obtained 2007 dollar set.

The meeting was closed at 8:55PM. The next meeting is February 13.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## *NCC "Reporter's" Notes from Florida*

*R. S. "Bart" Bartanowicz*

*The Florida coin scene is quite active as evidenced by the recent FUN Show in Orlando. Numerous New England dealers were at the show. Greater Nashua dealers Gary Galbo and Bruce Bretton were seen on the Bourse. The market still seems to be growing. Despite all the talk about people needing money and selling off their collections, dealers were complaining about not having enough merchandise including lower graded material. The Paper market is somewhat insane with many paper dealers proclaiming that "Paper has finally arrived." I didn't know that we were waiting on "Paper to arrive?"*

*There are several active and good shows routinely taking place in Southwest Florida. The good venues are the Sarasota, Clearwater and Lakeland Coin shows. For those of you who remember "Bill Jones" from the Nashua 3rd Sunday shows, Bill now lives in the Tampa area. He routinely works the Florida circuit.*

*Hope that you all are doing well. I still follow the Red Sox, Patriots and Celtics. Quite a year indeed for New England sports fans!*

## *Auction Results*

*Ken Young*

*One learns, sometimes by experience;*

*Recent Scofield auction, about 30 or 40 lots of buffalo nickels came up.*

*After selling 10 or 12, Steve stopped to ask the floor bidders, why they were not bidding.*

*All lots were going to left bids on the web site. "Is it my grading?" Thirty heads nodded.*

*One dealer commented, Its, OK, you'll just get them all back.*

*Course Ken had to buy a 10 coin lot of all 1923S nickels.*

*Tom, downtown offered me 2 bucks, for a really only ag, partial date, example.*

*The rest of the lot is the same. Barely good, but Steve had them all graded as Fine-VF.*

*And yes, Tom had already heard the "story", when I got into the store.*

*Said he hoped to be "flat", on inventory, when the Fed dropped the discount rate again.*

*Odd, I would have guessd the effect would be just the reverse.*



# Liberty Coin of the Month Quiz

## Photos







# SHOW/MINT CALENDAR

## 2008

Compiled by Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

*Italics* = New information

10 Feb - Keene

13 FEB - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

14-16 Feb - Long Beach

\*14 Feb - James Munroe Dollar Release

17 FEB - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

29 Feb-2 Mar - Baltimore

7-9 Mar - ANA Phoenix

12 MAR - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY,  
7PM

\*13 Mar - New \$5 Bill Release

16 MAR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

28-30 Mar - Bay State Boston

30 Mar - Willimantic

\*15 May - John Quincy Adams Dollar Release

## President's Message

Cliff Lo Verne

Our January meeting was one of the best in recent memory. Thanks to all who contributed to its success. I would like to welcome our newest member Robert Drew who recently moved back to New Hampshire from out west. Our February meeting features as coin of the month Walking Liberty U.S. coins along with any similar coins from around the world. The Walking Liberty fifty cent coin made its debut in 1916 along with two other new designs, the Winged Liberty (or Mercury) dime and the Standing Liberty quarter. The sculptor A. A. Weinman designed both the Walking Liberty and the Winged Liberty coins. In addition to these two coins Weinman also sculpted several statues located in and around New York City. His Walking Liberty obverse was reused as the obverse of the American Eagle silver dollar introduced in 1986 with the series continuing to this day. The US Mint calls the design "An image of Liberty that stands the test of time." Indeed it is one of my favorites. I hope to see some great examples at the next meeting.

## Liberty Coin of the Month Quiz

Randy Bullis

This month's quiz shows us images of Liberty from around the world. Using the list below, and comparing to the page of photos, can you assign the country with it's coin? I have not blurred out the name of the country on the coin thus making it somewhat easier.

United States of America, Switzerland, Liberia, Mexico, Madagascar, New Caledonia, Colombia, France, Argentina, England.

#### 2008 OFFICERS

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VP - Charles Dube

VP - Fred Liberatore

VP - Steve Pearsall

Secretary - Todd Salmon

Treasurer - Todd Salmon

Director - Robert Fritsch

Librarian - Todd Salmon

Editor - Randy Bullis

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*Phone queries may be made to 603-882-4930. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the Nashua Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua.*

*Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.*

## *NEXT MEETING*

*13 February at The Library,  
Nashua, NH*

*FEBRUARY'S COIN OF  
THE MONTH  
Walking Liberty of the  
World*





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

February 2008  
Volume 12 Number 2  
Whole Number 144

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
13 February 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:05PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Five members were present. The January minutes were read and approved as was the treasurer's report.

Bob talked about his recent trip to the New York International Numismatic Convention in January. He bought a book but no medals. He also attended several meetings.

Dan W. won the attendance raffle of \$1.25

The quiz for the coin of the month was reviewed. The COTM was walking liberty designed coins. For the drawing, there was a 1943 Walking Liberty, a 1914 French 10 centimes, a 1999 20 cent French Euro, 1944 50 cent Philippines, and a 1989 French 10 Franc. Bob won the drawing

For show and tell, Dan brought in a 1996 Spanish 5 pta's, Bob had a 2007 US uncirculated set. Todd S. had a 1996 20th anniversary silver eagle set. Cliff had a Legacies of Freedom set containing a US silver eagle and a 2 pound Britannia. He also brought in a 2008 proof eagle. Randy B. had a 2007 platinum 10th anniversary set.

For other show and tell, Bob had a 2007 US uncirculated dollar set. Todd had a Mexican 20 centavo from the Cristero Revolution of 1926.

The meeting was closed at 8:50PM. The next COTM is hard times tokens. Due to the value of these, there will not be a raffle for them. The next meeting is on March 12.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## President's Message

Cliff LoVerme

Greetings all. My thanks to those who braved the weather to show up at our February meeting. There were plenty of walking liberty designs to pass around. At our March meeting Bob Fritsch will give a one hour presentation on "Hard Times Tokens". In keeping with that theme we have made the Coin of the month Hard Times tokens and have also added Civil War tokens. And if you couldn't make last week's meeting but have some Walking Liberty coins to show, please bring them along with you for all to enjoy. Hopefully the weather will cooperate better this month. See you soon.

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR

2008

Robert Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

*Italics = New information*

7-9 Mar - ANA Phoenix

12 MAR - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY,  
7PM

\*13 Mar - New \$5 Bill Release

16 MAR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

28-30 Mar - Bay State Boston

30 Mar - Willimantic

9 APR - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13 Apr - Keene

16-19 Apr - Central States, Rosemont, IL

20 APR - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

21 Apr - Centennial Auctions, Holiday Inn



**2008 OFFICERS**

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*VP - Charles Dube*

*VP - Fred Liberatore*

*VP - Steve Pearsall*

*Secretary - Todd Salmon*

*Treasurer - Todd Salmon*

*Director - Robert Fritsch*

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*Editor - Randy Bullis*

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## *NEXT MEETING*

*12 March at The Nashua Library,  
Nashua, NH*

# *MARCH'S COIN OF THE MONTH*

## *Hard Times Tokens*





#### 1893 • COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

The first elongated penny is from this Chicago fair, held in honor of Columbus's arrival in America.



#### 1927 • LINDBERGH'S FLIGHT

In this era, elongated coins often had a punched hole or two for a key chain or necklace.



#### 1963 • OSWALD SHOT

The coin is a dime. The image is taken from the famous photo of Jack Ruby shooting JFK's assassin.



#### 1991 • DESERT STORM

The 3-D flower is a result of hand engraving. Acid etching is faster but lacks dimensionality.



#### THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Prayers and pledges are popular. This penny predates the 1954 addition of "under God."



#### 1904 • ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR

This rare coin plays on words. A "pike" is a fair midway. At a 1994 auction, one sold for \$4,000.



#### 1935 • WORLD SERIES

Sports became a popular topic as a collecting craze swept the nation in the 1930s.



#### 1977 • HINDENBURG

A detailed anniversary design—bursts of lines, clouds of smoke—pops off the penny.



#### 2004 • WEST NILE VIRUS

When devising a new design, "rollers" ask themselves: What's in the news now—and will it sell?

## Uncommon Cents

In 1893 the ultimate cheap souvenir was born. That's when a Chicago jeweler used a metal-rolling machine to stretch coins and press the words "Columbian Exposition" onto them. Today coins are flattened and impressed with an image at thousands of U.S. tourist spots and as far away as China, says George Strang, whose Press-A-Penny firm manufactures rolling machines. American customers put in two or four quarters plus a penny. Collectors design and press coins to trade online, while entrepreneurs squish them to hype products, say "Merry Christmas," and sell as wedding favors. Few of the coins are worth a lot in dollars, but they can harbor priceless memories. Collector Ray Dillard recalls a souvenir penny with a Hawaiian king on the front and a hand-scratched list of Pacific battles a WWII soldier had added to the back. —Marc Silver

## Robo-fish

weaving through bottom of a bay, foraging for food for damage and fit in places diver robotic fish, built feet long, had the of dollars. The ne Youcef-Toumi, an inches long, have These sleek robo engineered to be tail—and rigid wh sends a wave do mimics the swim robotic fish are p swimming in lake can tell the story







# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

March 2008  
Volume 12 Number 3  
Whole Number 145

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
12 March 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:05PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Nine members were present. The February minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.

Cliff reviewed the ANA awards categories and our ability as a club to make nominations for next year. Ken Young passed out Brazilian cinco Cruzeiros. In old business, Todd Salmon confirmed the Coin World subscription was sent off. Bob Fritsch told the group about National Coin Week the week of April 20-26. Todd will contact the ANA for the coin week kit. Mention was made of the new five dollar bills to be released the next day.

For show and tell, Al Cernota showed his gorgeous Walking Liberty half set. Fred Liberatore had a 2006-W burnished Walking Liberty Dollar. Gil Turgeon had the new 3 coin Bald Eagle 2008 set. Cliff had the 2008 Presidential Proof set. Bob had a French medal of the Palace of the Medici's from about 1836 from Louis Phillipe Regnant.

The coin of the month was hard times and Civil War tokens. Dan Welch had two great examples; an 1837 NGC AU-55 hard times token HT42 and an 1833 AU-58 HT 70. Todd brought in several hard times tokens as well. Bob showed a collection of civil war tokens as well as books on civil war tokens, hard times tokens, and store cards.

Al won the attendance raffle of \$2.25

Bob showed his video presentation on hard times tokens. There were great stories and corresponding token pictures that went along with his excellent presentation.

The meeting was closed at 8:55PM. The next COTM is coins with a flower or fish design. The next meeting is on April 9 in the Music/Art/Media wing instead of the usual East Wing of the library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

### State Quarter Fish and Flower Quiz Randy Bullis

Washington	Fish or flower, what kind?
Nevada	Fish or flower, what kind?
Kansas	Fish or flower, what kind?
Oklahoma	Fish or flower, what kind?
Alabama	Fish or flower, what kind?
South Carolina	Fish or flower, what kind?
Alaska	Fish or flower, what kind?
Mississippi	Fish or flower, what kind?
South Dakota	Fish or flower, what kind?

# Fish and Flowers on Coins

F.A. Liberatore

Who would be surprised to learn that the people who invented coined money as we know it were also the first to put both fish and flowers for coin designs but always the reverse from our point of view? Of course we are writing of the Greeks who were a racial, linguistic and cultural group of people but NEVER an organised state as we know it. Rather there were hundreds of independent city states each coining its own money and trying to be as distinctive as possible. Still, fish and flowers on ancient coins are uncommon. Many coins of Rhodes have a rose on them which is no surprise since Rhodes is Greek for rose. A lotus flower appears on coin of Idalium, Cyprus and the lily on the first Jewish mite issued under the authority of Antiochus VII 138-129 B. C.

Tuna fish also appear on a few Greek issues such as Mediterranean coastal cities of Cyzicus, (present day Turkish coast) (5th century B.C.) and Abdera (Southern Spanish coast). Tuna fish were an important seasonal food so their appearance at least occasionally is no surprise. Another unusual fish issue was made under Roman authority at the eastern city of Byzantium and features the portrait of the empress Faustina Junior, wife of Marcus Aurelius (161-180 A.D.) The obverse bears her portrait and the reverse two fish, likely tuna fish. Byzantium was another coastal city. Ancient fish or flower issues appear to be very uncommon except those of Rhodes.

Classic Roman coins do not have any fish or flowers as a main reverse motif to the best of my knowledge. The same is true for issues of the Parthians, Celts, the Sassanians, Arabs, and Byzantine Empire. I have no recollection of seeing any medieval coin with a fish or flower on it.

In fact, I know of no common 16th, 17th, 18th or even 19th century issue featuring a fish or flower as a main design theme.

The first fish theme I am aware of appears on the coins of Danzig in 1932.

This was a City on the Baltic shore that was created a Free City State at the end of World War 1. The 1932 has a flounder on the 5 pfennig and a herring (most likely) on the 10 pfennig, both dated 1932.

Following World War 2 and the granting of independence to former colonies, especially those of England, new coin issues have featured many fish and flowers. New Zealand had a flower on a 2 cent coin which has become obsolete.

The island nations of the Pacific and Caribbean have issued many flowers and fish issues. Bermuda and the Bahamas issued particularly beautiful fish and flower reverse motif coins. I am hoping club members will bring in a wide variety of these modern design jewels. Happy Collecting

## The Golden Parachute or Bubble

Ken Young

Into Tom's shop today to unload a few Walking Liberty halves. One 'regular', buying gold coins. Apparently any gold coins, like a Belgium 20 Fr. Leopold, 1865, item for 175. Commented that he was thinking of cashing in his 401k plan early, and taking the tax hit and buying gold for his retirement.

Be Careful out there. Remember 1979, and what followed?



## **GOLD RUSH AND POST-GOLD RUSH GOLD COINS**

by Ken Camilleis

On January 24, 1848, workmen digging a foundation for a sawmill on land near Sacramento, owned by Johann Augustus Sutter, discovered ... gold. Not just a little bit of gold ore, a lot of it. Perhaps I could simply say "the rest is history" but there's an interesting numismatic story behind the strike of gold at Sutter's Mill.

By late 1848/early 1849, word had spread of the discovery of gold, and the nation went into "gold mania." Inhabitants from far and wide boarded their wagons and headed west to the hills of the territory of California. Traveling over these rough roads, mountains and valleys, people risked their lives, and many did not survive the journey of the thousands of miles. And even of those who did safely reach California, many were disappointed since their share of the spoils was slim to none. Most of the gold had been mined out in 1848, so, by the time the "gold frenzy" had caught on, riches from this gold had already been realized and many travelers felt they'd been tricked into believing there was still more gold to be found. And the U.S. Mint would formulate a plan which in 1849 was in place for mass-production of gold coin that was sorely needed as specie for bank transactions and land purchases. And lest we forget, California would become a state in 1850, with Sacramento named its capitol.

For starters, in 1848, military governor of California Colonel R. B. Mason sent some 230 ounces of gold extracted from the Sutter's Mill site to Secretary of War Robert Marcy who shipped the gold to the Philadelphia Mint where it was coined into quarter eagles. To commemorate the discovery of this gold, each of these quarter eagles, merely 1,389 in all, would be counterstamped "CAL." above the eagle's head to distinguish them from other 1848 issues as being coined from "native California gold." Such coins are of course very rare and highly prized.

The year 1849 would see the introduction of the one-dollar gold coin, and this tiny coin would be mass-produced in most years through 1862. Two more gold denominations would soon debut, the double eagle (\$20) in 1850 and the \$3 coin in 1854. Quarter eagle mintages would step up considerably in 1850 and during 1851-53 were into the millions. The \$5 and \$10 coins had been workhorse issues during the 1840s, so the mintages of these issues would not be noticeably increased during the 1850s. Also, between 1849 and 1860, "territorial" gold coins of many different denominations (including \$50!) were issued by private enterprise, from gold mined in northern California, Pikes Peak, and other areas, and, rare as they are today, such coins circulated freely during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Before, during, and after the Civil War, very small gold coins in denominations as small as 25c and 50c were dubbed "California gold."

Market research suggests that U.S. Mint issues of "gold rush gold" (c. 1848-60) gold coins are difficult to find in choice mint state, with perhaps the exception of \$1 coins and some \$2.50 coins such as the Philadelphia issues of 1851-53. Half eagles and eagles are very tough to find choice and with crisp, original luster and full strikes including all 13 stars and the lower portion of the eagle (especially on the left-facing side, arrow feather and claw) fully defined. These coins are plagued with very heavy bag marks in the fields and on the devices, or poor strike somewhere on the eagle. Really nice "gold rush gold" coins can be found – at a price!





# *Metal Prices and Numismatics*

*F.A. Liberatore*

*On first consideration, high metal prices would seem a bonus for coin collectors since it makes a current collection more valuable. Unfortunately these same high metal prices make additions to the collection also more expensive.*

*In my life time, metal prices began their noticeable rise in the 1960's. By 1965 the value of the silver in US coins exceeded their face value. The mint's response was the familiar clad coinage. When the premium on old US silver coins was hardly more than 5 % they were rapidly swept from circulation following Gresham's Law of bad money driving good money from circulation.*

*The silver hoarders were rewarded in the early 1980's when the Hunt brothers, Texas billionaires, came close to cornering the silver market. Prices rose to an incredible \$50+ per ounce. The silver to gold ratio approached 15 to 1. Vast amounts of silver and gold objects hit the melting pot. Coins, jewelry and silverware were ruthlessly abandoned to their fate. Intrinsic metal value had trumped numismatic, artistic, historical, and sentimental values. Silver coins dated 1964 and 0.999 Franklin Mint medals were special targets. For a brief time the buy price was 28 x face value for old US silver!*

*When the frenzy was over silver prices dropped back to the \$5-6 level and stayed there for a long time. I had acquired a small booklet concerning the value of silver in coins including many foreign coins. I don't believe foreign coins had suffered as heavily in the "great melt." I was able to buy many at far*

*less than their metal value as I prowled coins shows mining silver without a pick and shovel. Those happy days ended in roughly the past 6 months. My last great find was 4 deluxe proof Canadian 1967 commemorative sets including the dollar sized silver set medal for \$10 a set. I considered them a great buy since there is good numismatic value in them as well as metal value. They are now worth about \$34 as scrap! Is it time to sell? Rationally, yes, as their scrap value has vastly exceeded their likely numismatic value well into the future. However, I'll probably do nothing as I did not pay a lot for them, they are beautiful, and as a collector would hate to see them melted.*

*I am friendly with several coin dealers and they have had to make hard decisions. Coins with low demand numismatically but high silver value become a major burden for them. Both of the Canadian coin dealers I know have unloaded thousands of dollars worth of Canadian silver dollars that collectors would not buy at a slight premium over bullion value. Suddenly, they have the chance to sell all of them to a smelter with no haggling over condition, at a solid profit, immediately. I can assure fellow collectors that a lot of "common" Canadian coins won't be so common in the future.*

*So, is it time to sell the numismatically low value coins you own, the damaged coins, those that are well worn, multiple duplicated which are hard to otherwise sell? If you need the money or have better uses for it than tying it up in coins that have little future chance of appreciation, the answer is a resounding, yes! Happy Collecting.*

*2008 OFFICERS*

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*VP - Charles Dube*

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## *NEXT MEETING*

*9 April at The Nashua Library,  
Nashua, NH*

## *MARCH'S COIN OF THE MONTH*

*Coins with Flowers or  
Fish*

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
9 April 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:04PM by Vice President Steve Pearsall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twelve members and two guests were present. The March minutes were approved and there was no change in the treasurer's report.

Todd Salmon discussed the club's involvement in the ANA National Money week. We are the only club participating in New England. Bob Fritsch talked about the new ANA director Larry Shepherd. He also talked about the upcoming Worlds Fair of Money in Baltimore. Steve warned those present of the fake PCGS and NGC slabs coming out of China. There is an online story exposing one operation in China by Susan Handley on About.com.

Bob held a coin class at the Senior Center in Nashua to determine interest within the community. He and Todd participated and if enough interest develops may hold a coin version of the Antiques Roadshow at the Center with a portion of proceeds going to the Nashua Coin Club.

Coin of the month was coins with fish or flowers. Al Cernota was the luck winner of the pot including a 2000 Barbados 5 cent, 1996 Cayman Islands 5 cent, 1974 Bahamas cent, 1964 Sierra Leone ½ cent, 2002 Mississippi quarter and a German 5 pfennig.

COTM show and tell consisted of an 1884 ½ cent from the Netherlands brought in by Al. Fred showed a 1976 New Zealand proof set. Charlie Dube passed around a Maria Theresa thaler, a Lucky Lindy token and Amelia Earnhardt token. Robert Drew displayed several colorful bank notes from his collection that contained the requisite fish or flowers including a Bolivia 500, a Brunei 1, a Cook Islands 3 and New Zealand 10. Our guest Brian Maxfield showed a medal from the National Wildlife Refuge System commemorating a century of conservation displaying a salmon. Brian is now a member.

The COTM quiz created by Randy Bullis was reviewed.

The attendance drawing of \$3.00 was won by Derek Connary.

For other show and tell, Bob showed an interesting group of 8 Swiss participation medals. Fred Liberatore displayed several authentic cast bronze Chinese coins. Our other guest

Mark Schlepphorst brought in an amazing Victor D. Brenner plaque of a sitting for the Lincoln cent. He also brought in a reduced size medal of the same done by the Medalic Art Co NY. Gil Turgeon passed around his recently completed Kennedy half set in a Dansco album.

Robert added that there is a Bonus Bucks program currently at the ANA for signing up new members.

The meeting was closed at 8:55PM. The next COTM is Franklin Halves. The next meeting is on May 14 back in the usual East Wing of the library.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2008

Robert Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

*Italics* = New information

\*5 May – Proof Platinum Eagle Release

11 May – Auburn

\*15 May – John Quincy Adams Dollar Release

17 May – Portland

14 MAY – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

18 MAY – 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

25 May – Westford

\*29 May – Louisa Adams First Spouse Gold Coin & Bronze Medal

29-31 May – Long Beach

\*2 Jun – Unc Platinum Eagle Release

\*2 Jun – Arizona 25¢ Bags & Rolls

6-8 Jun – Baltimore

8 Jun – Auburn

8 Jun – Keene

11 JUN – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

15 JUN – 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

22 Jun – Westford

\*24 Jun – Proof Set

\*? Jul – Unc Dollar Set

9 JUL – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13 Jul – Auburn

20 JUL – 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

27 Jul – Westford

30 Jul-3 Aug – ANA Baltimore



# NASHUA SENIOR CENTER

Bob Fritsch

*You may ask why an article on this subject is doing in a coin club newsletter. Well, I'll tell you.*

*One vast untapped source of coin collectors is the Senior community. It seems that most of our efforts are aimed at the Young Numismatists while mostly ignoring the folks at the other end of life. Seniors have lots of time on their hands and many have good incomes. What better occupation for them, than coin collecting.*

*For the past couple of months, Todd Salmon and I have been going to the Senior Center on Temple Street to form a coin club there. So far we have had about 10-12 people per session and it appears that we have a "go". Each meeting lasts about an hour and Todd and I have given talks about the various aspects of numismatics and answered questions. It has been kind of disorganized as we are basically winging it. But the subject is so broad and deep that we could continue doing this indefinitely until the thing hits true ignition.*

*As promising as this sounds, we cannot do it alone. I would like to enlist the help of each member of Nashua Coin Club to assist in the effort. It only takes a bit of your time on a Saturday morning and the reward is seeing a whole new group of people get into the hobby. Of course each of the participants is invited to our club meetings and they may just do that sometime in the future. See me or Todd at the meeting.*

*Another initiative we are developing at the Senior Center is a "Coins Roadshow". Similar to the PBS program, we would invite people to bring a let quantity of coins (like a 6-oz coffee cup full) and pay a \$5 fee (shared between us and the Senior Center) to get a valuation on what they have. It would not be a full appraisal, but rather a quick look-see to point out the valuable items from the common stuff. I think this program would be a hit and could be a recurring thing in the future. For this endeavor, we definitely need help of 6-8 of you. Again, see me or Todd if you are interested and dates that you would be available. I would like to target June or July for the first session, and based on its results we can determine if we want to do it again. If it is successful we could take it on the road and show up at various locations around the area.*

*These two programs have the potential to increase the number of coin collectors in the area which may increase our membership and coffers. Your participation is vital to their success.*

# Franklin Half Dollars

Steve Pearsall

*The Franklin Half Dollar was very much the pet project of then Mint Director, Nellie Tayloe Ross, who had wanted a circulating coin honoring Franklin ever since she had seen the 1933 US Mint medal the mint's chief designer, John Sinnock had created in honor of Franklin. At the Franklin Half's official dedication ceremony, held on April 28th 1948, Ross said, "You may be wondering how it came about that the portrait of Benjamin Franklin found its place upon the 50 cent piece together with a replica of the Liberty Bell. For several years I had harbored the hope that during my tenure in the Mint these two features might be incorporated in design for one of our coins."*

*As the other circulating coins were untouchable either for legal or political reasons the 50 cent coin was the only one available for Ross' Franklin plans despite the fact that no one thought Adolph Weinman's Walking Liberty design needed to be replaced. So Ross directed Sinnock to create a design for a Franklin half dollar based upon his earlier work on the Franklin medal and to put the Liberty Bell on the reverse. There was one snag in Ross' plans as the Coin Act of 1873 mandated that an eagle must appear on all circulating silver coinage larger than a dime. So a tiny eagle was added to the right of the Liberty Bell. Although the Commission of Fine Arts raised objections to this afterthought type treatment of the eagle Ross wasn't going let that stop her plans and so we ended up with what was the final design for the coin. The Franklin design didn't last its guaranteed minimum 25 year life span as the Congress authorized the Kennedy Half Dollar to honor our fallen president with special legislation shortly after his assassination.*

*Franklin Half Dollars began production in 1948 and marked the ending of an era as they replaced the last circulating coin that had the formerly traditional allegorical figure of Liberty instead of a politician on its obverse. For many years the Franklin Half Dollar series wasn't given that much attention by collectors, however due to its short life span and ready availability in circulated grades it has become more popular as an easy set to complete. The full set of Franklin halves is comprised of 35 business strikes and there were a scant 14 proofs. In circulated grades the keys to the set are the 1949-D (mintage: 4,120,600), 1949-S (mintage: 3,744,000), 1953 (mintage: 2,668,120) & the 1955 (mintage 2,498,181). The only widely noted variety is the 1955 "Bugs Bunny" variety, where a die chip makes it appear as if Franklin has an elongated front tooth.*

*This series gained the attention of more advanced collectors with the introduction of the concept of well struck examples having "Full Bell Lines", or a complete and unbroken*

impression of the two sets of parallel lines at the bottom of and just above the bottom of the bell. Collecting full bell line Franklins puts a very different light on the rarity of members of this series with some results surprising to those who don't collect them. The 1953-S is the key to this series in full bell lines with prices skyrocketing for this issue. An MS-64 1953-S Franklin with full bell lines is currently priced by PCGS at \$10,000 and at \$25,000 in MS-65 FBL, though they rarely come up for sale. In fact the last 1953-S Franklin with full bell lines that came up at Heritage Auctions was on August 14th, 2006 – it was graded MS-65 FBL by PCGS and went for \$32,200. The rest of the series is much more affordable though some dates that seem common when not considering whether they have full lines or not are much less so with full bell lines. For example the 1961, 1962, and 1963 Philadelphia minted coins which can be had in uncirculated condition for a small premium over melt, are priced at \$200+ for a MS-64 FBL graded coin - that is when you can find one.

Even at these prices many Franklin collectors feel that this set is currently undervalued by the market because no one knows for sure how many Franklin half dollars ended up in the melting pot during the silver run of the late 1970s and that far fewer are left than the market is currently priced at. One thing is certain, with ever increasing interest in this series prices are currently rising at a pretty healthy rate.

## Early Silver Coins with Original Surfaces

by Ken Camilleis

It is a common misconception that a silver coin has to be bright and shiny to be uncirculated (graded MS-60 or above); that the coin must have a "new" look. Many collectors and dealers associate "eye appeal" with brilliance and radiant luster. Although many 20th-century and late-19th-century silver coins are brilliant and untuned, the majority of earlier coins (especially those before 1853) won't likely be found in such a state of preservation. For the sake of this article, I address early Seated coins of 1837-52 and later issues of Capped Bust coins (half dimes 1829-37, dimes 1828-37, quarters 1831-38 and halves from about the mid-1820s through 1839), coins on which I've compiled extensive market data. If a pre-1853 silver coin looks as if it just rolled off the Mint's presses, chances are it has been dipped – or perhaps even cleaned (but not so obtrusively as to end up in a "body bag"). This may seem paradoxical, but the ugly-looking brown, gray or even black silver coin is more likely to be truly original than the brilliant one!

Let's consider some important factors:

- Because of the "Gold Rush" and a resulting silver shortage, in 1853 the weight of silver coins was reduced. Earlier coins were being melted to provide silver for the newer, lower-weight coins.
- Relatively few pre-1853 coins would have been saved in mint condition, partly because of the Gold Rush silver shortage and partly because there were very few

coin collectors at the time, and the silver value of these coins, in terms of purchasing power, far exceeded their numismatic value. So those coins that escaped the melting pots did not escape the harsh fate of commercial circulation.

- Methods of storage of coins that were saved by collectors (pulled from circulation for one reason or another and not melted in the 1850s) were not exactly high-tech. Coins were seldom stored by individuals in bank vaults; they were often kept in old barns and attics, loose, in wooden boxes or in chemical-exuding envelopes – or even buried in the ground, perhaps in a box, jar or pouch.
- During much of the 19th century it was common practice to export silver coins to foreign countries or businesses for trade purposes.
- Pre-1853 silver coins, even those that spec to 90% silver, sometimes contain impurities that bleed through to the surface, causing oxidation spots, mottled toning or dulled luster.

The above considerations combine to create a rather small population of "brilliant" pre-1853 silver coins for today's numismatic market.

Collectors with little or no knowledge of the process behind early U.S. silver coins may tend to view unworn but deeply toned, lackluster pieces as AU, or even XF. I've seen "in the metal" dozens of "Gem" pre-1853 silver coins, some as high as MS67, with little or no luster but pristine, nearly perfect surfaces. On high points of devices, such as folds in Liberty's gown, haircurls or arrow feathers, toning may be absent, and this color contrast is often mistaken for wear. However, the interruption in toning may be due to the coin having not been fully struck (a common situation with early silver coins) or to the failure of molecules of the environmental agent causing the toning to collect on the highest points.

While a weak strike should lower a coin's value, especially if from an issue often found well-struck, a good guide when grading a pre-1853 silver coin is that the **first** signs of "circulation" are not likely to be wear on the coin's highest points but **contact marks or abrasions in the coin's fields**. I have observed this in the market, which is intuitively logical as well. What ultimately causes the wear that brings a coin below MS60 is the process of coins coming into contact with other coins or objects, or skin oils or dirt on people's hands. Considering that sanitation in the middle of the 19th century was nothing like what it is today, coupled with the fact that there was a silver shortage, silver coins tended to wear down at a relatively rapid rate. Therefore, if a silver coin has few or no contact marks in the fields yet absence of detail on a device, the absence is likely due to strike rather than wear. In 1989 or thereabouts, Bust coins, especially halves, were graded AU58 because of the tiniest break in hue on the shoulder gown fold. Nowadays, graders treat this as not really "wear." Most truly original pre-1853 silver coins will exhibit such an anomaly based on the process described above.

**2008 OFFICERS**

*President - Cliff LoVerme*

*VP - Charles Dube*

*VP - Fred Liberatore*

*VP - Steve Pearsall*

*Secretary - Todd Salmon*

*Treasurer - Todd Salmon*

*Director - Robert Fritsch*

*Librarian - Todd Salmon*

*Editor - Randy Bullis*

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*Phone queries may be made to 603-882-4930. The Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month in the Nashua Library, 2 Court Street, Nashua.*

*Visit us at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) on the web.*

## *NEXT MEETING*

*14 May at The Nashua Library,  
Nashua, NH*

**MAY'S COIN OF THE  
MONTH  
Ben Franklin Half Dollars**





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

May 2008  
Volume 12 Number 5  
Whole Number 147

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
14 May 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Fifteen members and one guest were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Correspondence included the usual magazines and mail offers, plus our room renewal for the library. It was decided to continue with our current meeting day of Wednesday. Also, we received notification from the ANA we had seven participant entries from our area during the ANA National Coin Week. Names would be forthcoming.

Our new guest was Jim Hand. He is returning to coins after a 30 year hiatus. He found our club via the website. Cliff reviewed the ANA newsletter for clubs. There was brief discussion of the available degrees in numismatics. And finally Todd Salmon confirmed the Nashua Public Library was receiving it's gift subscription from the Nashua Coin Club of Coin World.

Our webmaster Steve Pearsall suggested placing articles written by our members be placed on the website. It was moved and seconded. Bob Fritsch discussed the coin club that is beginning to form at the Nashua Senior Center. It has had two sessions with both Bob and Todd on the first Saturday of the month from 10-11am. Bob is looking for volunteers to be involved in the monthly meetings. He also discussed the possibility of a 'coin roadshow' at the center to provide valuations of coins for a fee to be split with the Nashua Coin Club. He is also looking for volunteers for this one time event. Please let Bob know if you are interested.

The coin of the month was Franklin Halves. Almost immediate discussion ensued regarding speculation of how many went to the melting pots during the last couple runs on silver values. Also discussed was the price jump on pre-1960 cameo proofs. Randy Bullis and Steve brought in their registry sets of certified Franklins. These were great sets and it was amazing to see how in many cases they both had the same remaining holes to be filled in their sets. Brian Maxfield brought in a well matched set of Franklins in a Capital holder. Bob

showed an old set of Franklins admitting to his childhood attempt to improve the appearance of the coins by using baking soda. Dan Welch had a 1948 PCGS MS64 FBL. Ken Young showed a 1951 and 1954-D Franklin as well as notgeld scrip from Germany.

The two reverses on the 2008 American Silver Eagles were mentioned. The attendance raffle was won by Frank Clark. Our guest Jim showed his half collection of Walkers and Franklins as well as an 1837 Bust Half.

Show and Tell had Bob with a Swiss medal with dragon and shield dated 1953 and a book of club items including tokens, medals, and show information. Charlie Dube had a church token from Vienna and an English gaming token dated 1854. Cliff passed around Dinars from Iraq and Italian Euro's 5 cent through 2 Euro.

The next COTM is large cents from around the world and the raffle is back on. The meeting was closed at 8:50PM. The next meeting is 11 June.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## What the exchange rates have wrought F.A. Liberatore

At the most recent Westford Coin Show I saw an unusual sight. Two men were buying large numbers of common, low value foreign coins from a dealer. What was unusual was the language they were speaking, German? Dutch? I could not tell. What surprised me was that foreign dealers would go to a backwater US Coin Show for merchandise. Clearly the high value of the Euro has made this sort of excursion worthwhile for European coin dealers. Foreign coins for European dealers are really a bargain for them. It was fun when the dollar was high vs the Euro. I did a lot of buying then. Happy Collecting

## Message From The Prez

Cliff LoVerme

Hi Everyone-

*I believe we had the largest attendance in my recollection last month! Welcome to all our new members and guests! It was a lot of fun to see new faces and hear different perspectives and interests. With the larger attendance however, comes a greater need to limit our side conversations to the break period. It is too difficult to maintain an orderly group discussion when multiple sets of people are having private conversations. Thank you for your consideration on this.*

*In past years, I have been more of a coin accumulator than a coin collector. I recently realized that I just can't afford to collect everything and that I needed to narrow my collecting focus. In light of that realization, I made the difficult decision to sell some of my treasured coins. I have parted with coins by giving them away several times, but selling them was somehow different. It was saying that "I don't want these any more" and that was hard for me. To some people coins are a business. To me coins were like friends. But I realized they are not friends, they are indeed just objects and it is okay to sell them. I know some of you buy and sell coins all the time and don't think twice about it. I will get to that point someday I am sure. In the mean time I will try to be less of an accumulator and more of a focused collector. See you at our next meeting!*

## Large Cents of the World

F. A. Liberatore

*Copper token coinage is another invention that belongs to the Greeks, specifically the Greeks living in Sicily in the 4th century B.C. Tiny silver coins were impractical but large bronze pieces worked well. Token coinage was extensively used in the Roman Empire. Token coinage reappeared in Europe in the 16th century but the classic penny was a token coinage in what became the United States and in England until we gave it a legitimacy in 1793. England issued a classic penny in 1806. The earlier halfpenny we'd recognize as a cent or penny.*

*England issued and used large pennies until the mid 1960's. Canada used them until 1920. Australia issued them from 1911 to 1964, New Zealand 1940-1965, Hong Kong 1901-1926, South Africa from 1923 to 1960 with the path forward marked by the Boer State and its large cents of the late 19th century, and Newfoundland 1901-1926.*

*Curiously, newly independent English colonies in Africa such as Ghana issued a large penny although this turned out to be a one year issue for Ghana. It would seem that large sized but low value coins, even of copper have become a luxury and became so in the 1960's as their issue seemed to pretty much cease everywhere.*

*The United States large cents ceased issue in 1857. The coins were heavy and yet saw hard use. In fact these large copper and bronze coins were heavily circulated wherever issued and could be described as circulation workhorses. Worn out or not they have always been popular with the melting pot, more so in recent times with soaring metal prices. It is wise for us coin collectors to realize if we deem coins not of numismatic value, the scrap dealers will claim the coins. Happy Collecting*



## *Florida Precious Metal Rush!*

*Bart, "The NCC on scene reporter in Venice, Florida"*

*The past few months have been interesting here in southwest Florida. With the price of gold and silver going through the roof the local coin dealers have been swamped (Florida pun intended) with folks coming in with coins and bullion as well as silver plated household items.*

*One of the larger dealers had three lines going for the entire day during the big rush. I was also visiting a small dealer who was busy going through old gold and silver jewelry that a frail elderly person had brought in. The person's attitude was kind of obnoxious letting it be known that "top dollar" was expected. I myself would have been pleased at my good fortune with gold hitting around \$1,000 an ounce. Anyway it was interesting to watch.*

*While all this was going on, the discussion at the clubs I belong to was whether or not one should buy gold or other precious metals with the idea that it will go even higher. Most people said no to the idea. Another fellow spoke of the great value that Palladium is. However he lost credibility when he couldn't even say what it was or what it was used for—but he thought it was a good deal! He reminds me of one of the fellows who purchased a urinal from the old Boston Garden when they were tearing it down. His comment was "It's a good deal!" But what do I know.*

## *SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2008*

*Bob Fritsch*

*\* = Mint Release*

*Italics = New information*

*\*2 Jun – Unc Platinum Eagle Release*

*\*2 Jun – Arizona 25¢ Bags & Rolls*

*6-8 Jun – Baltimore*

*8 Jun – Auburn*

*8 Jun – Keene*

*11 JUN – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM*

*15 JUN - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN*

*22 Jun – Westford*

*22 Jun – Searsport, ME*

*\*24 Jun – Proof Set*

*29 Jun – Concord, NH*

*\*? Jul – Unc Dollar Set*

*9 JUL – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM*

*13 Jul – Auburn*

*20 JUL - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN*

*27 Jul - Westford*

*30 Jul-3 Aug – ANA Baltimore*

*\*? Jul/Aug – Unc Mint Set*

*\*? Jul/Aug – American Buffalo Unc Coins*

*10 Aug – Auburn*

*10 Aug – Keene*

*13 AUG – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM*

*\*14 Aug – Andrew Jackson Dollar Release*

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## *NEXT MEETING*

*11 June at The Nashua Library,  
Nashua, NH*

## *JUNE'S COIN OF THE MONTH*

## *Large CentsoftheWorld*





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

June 2008  
Volume 12 Number 6  
Whole Number 148

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

### Minutes of the Meeting

11 June 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:05PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Fifteen members were present. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Correspondence included the usual magazines and mail offers, plus a package from the ANA. It consisted of a certificate for our participation in the ANA Money Week and a State Quarter Proof Set. The proof set was to be awarded to one of the seven entrant we had from the ANA Money Week. Through highly scientific methodology it was determined that Sabrina Lynch of Massachusetts was the winner. In old business, the 'Coins Roadshow' will be at the Senior Center in Nashua on July 19 from 10 to 1. Proceeds will be split between the center and the club. Six participants have volunteered but if any one else is interested in participating they should contact Bob Fritsch.

The coin of the month was large cents from around the world. Fred Liberatore discussed points from his article in the newsletter. Ken Camelleis shared news of his daughter's marriage in the coming weekend as well as his recent finds on the Cape. At a new site, he found large cents, indian head cents, a silver quarter, a British half cent, car keys, thimble, and a belt buckle. Bob had a series of large and not as large cents from around the world. Fred had an ashtray made of the large 20 centavos coppers of Mexico. Todd Salmon showed his 1803 large cent from his type collection as well as an 1806 Toluca counterstamp on a 1 centavo coin. Our newest member, Jim Hand, showed his large cent collection that included many foreign cents. Included were a Hibernian, a British George IV, 90 one Thaler and a 120 one Thaler.

Charlie Dube was the big winner of the night winning both the attendance raffle of \$3.75 and the COTM raffle. In the COTM raffle was an 1890, 1920, and 1962 British penny; 1770-1775 British half penny; 1903 Canadian cent; 1836 US cent; 1942 South Africa; 1965 Ireland; and an 1877 Indian Cent large replica.

For show and tell, Fred passed around two ads, one for a company selling statehood quarters and another for a company buying coins in a hotel. As noted by Fred, both were of questionable value to true collectors. He also showed his newly acquired (and already valuable) 2008 Vatican proof set. Steve Pearsall brought a PCGS AU 58 1928 Peace dollar he got at a great price. Bob showed his recent entry in the US Mint lottery for burnished silver eagles. Like many, he lost by receiving the standard 2008 obverse/reverse pairing. He also

showed the proof version of the same. Bob also passed around three medals; a 1962 Michael Disalle Ohio, a 1825-1975 Akron Ohio Sesquicentennial with Simon Perkins, and finally a large 1972 Herman Melville French medal with a lot of action scenes. Brian Maxfield showed a couple national banknotes. One was a \$5 Mellon Bank Pittsburgh dated 1902 and the other was a super rare \$10 from Steubenville OH dated 1882. He also sent around the room a 1928 Peace dollar with a suspicious rim.

The next COTM is paper money from anywhere with our regular raffle. The meeting was closed at 8:50PM. The next meeting is 9 July.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2008

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mini Release

\*? Jul - Unc Dollar Set

6 Jul - Keene

9 JUL - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13 Jul - Auburn

13 Jul - Brunswick, ME

20 JUL - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

27 Jul - Westford

30 Jul-3 Aug - ANA Baltimore

\*? Jul/Aug - Unc Mint Set

\*? Jul/Aug - American Buffalo Unc Coins

10 Aug - Auburn

10 Aug - Keene

13 AUG - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

\*14 Aug - Andrew Jackson Dollar Release

17 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

24 Aug - Westford

\*25 Aug - Alaska 25¢ Bags & Rolls

\*26 Aug - Silver Proof Set

\*28 Aug - Jackson's Liberty 1st Spouse Coin & Medal

31 Aug - Concord, NH

10 SEP - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13 Sep - Portland

14 Sep - Auburn

21 SEP - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

8-20 Sep - Long Beach

## COINS ROADSHOW 19 JULY

by Bob Fritsch

The Coins Roadshow is 19 July. We have commitments from Brian, Dan, Bob, Ken C, and Todd. We need at least one more, two or three would be better. I have to stress how important that the volunteers honor their obligation. The Senior Center is gearing for 120 "customers", which means that each of the six of us will have 20 in the three hours allocated. That further breaks down to about ten minutes per valuation! If there are only five of us, that will mean that much more burden on the individual. No matter how you look at it, we will be busy.

The general strategy is to look for key and semi-key coins in each series and tend to ignore the rest. Call it "average" or "bullion value" in the case of silver coins. I will have several Market Guides, but if you have one/some, please bring them. Bring a good light and magnifying glass too as the location only has general fluorescent lighting. We start at 10AM so please be there at 9:30 so we can be set up and ready to go when the doors open. Todd, can you bring a pile of NCC flyers to pass out? Does anyone have a list of key/semi-key coins or can make one?

We are doing this as a public service and to gain some recognition for our hobby and club. If it is successful, I plan to talk it up at the Baltimore ANA, and also write it up for the ANA Club Rep program and see if a nationwide effort can be started. We will be the test bed to see if such a program can actually work.

Please communicate with me directly () with comments, suggestions, etc. And please keep me informed if there is any change in volunteer status. As stated above, we are relying on you to be there.

## The Coins and Currency of Biafra

F.A. Liberatore

*In the 19th century Africa was largely colonized by the European Powers who divided up the continent around treaty tables in their capitals. What they were totally ignorant of and had no concern for were the existing tribal boundaries. This gross oversight has resulted today in an Africa of former colonial "nations" that in many cases make no sense relative to the cultural and linguistic differences of the tribes stuffed into these cobbled together "nations."*

*Once a part of several separated colonies labeled British West Africa, Nigeria is a classic example of a cobbled together nation. Nigeria became a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations on Oct 1, 1963. This amalgam broke on May 30, 1967 when the Ibo tribe in Southern Nigeria declared their independence from the central government. The Ibo were the best educated and organized tribe in Nigeria and had they been left to their own devices would likely have become a prosperous and well governed nation but it was not to be. In spite of the help of mercenaries who fought in many African Civil Wars of the 1960's, the Ibo were crushed and surrendered after 31 months of fighting on Jan 15, 1970. Their casualties were around 2 million due to disease and starvation. In the end it was a war that nobody won. Numismatically, a whole series of coins, all dated 1969 appeared. The 3 pence, shilling and 2 1/2 shilling did circulate. There are a couple of rare patterns for a 6 pence and an alternate shilling design. Prestige coins also exist as a 1 pound silver crown as well as a gold series of 1, 2, 5, 10, and 25 pounds as gold proofs, mintage 3,000 and likely all sold overseas to raise funds.*

*None of the Biafran coins are common. In fact the word rare really applies to all of them. Although the catalogue values for the circulating aluminum pieces are not high, \$10-40, they are seldom seen and I expect sell for much more. Their survival was chancy and likely came about in the pockets of aid and Red Cross workers who flew in and out of the war zone. One can be sure that the Nigeria Federal Government destroyed any they laid their hands on and that the locals got rid of what they had as soon as possible after their defeat. (I have the 3 circulating coins which cost \$4.50 in 1969 which was a relatively high cost even then.)*

*While the coins of Biafra are numismatic treasures the currency seems common and unappreciated. While at the Westford coin show, I saw by chance a packet of Biafran 1 pound notes for 50 cents each or all for \$2.75. I snapped them up because while some were virtually unused others had obviously seen circulation. The series include BH, BU, BX, BY, CA, CT, and CV with serial numbers as high as 0837120 and as low as 0000375. The earliest notes in the series are the circulated ones. The paper, engraving, and printing are good quality. I expect counterfeiting these notes would have been difficult with then existing technology.*

*I consider these notes a fascinating addition to my coin collection because of their brief issue and how neatly they fit into my collection. A final point, were there notes of higher denominations? Someone bring in a book. Please! Happy Collecting.*



# National Bank Notes

Brian Maxfield

The issuance of National Bank Notes can trace its beginnings to 1863, when Senator John Sherman (of Silver Purchase Act fame) helped to get the National Banking Act passed. This allowed individual banks to issue their own currency after depositing government bonds with the treasurer of the United States. The banks were issued a charter, allowing them to issue currency at up to 90% of the value of the bonds that had been deposited.

From 1863 through December of 1935, 14,348 different bank charters were issued. The last bank to be chartered was the Roadhouse National Bank of Illinois. The first bank to be chartered would have been the First National Bank of Portsmouth New Hampshire, if not for an omission in their application. Credit for the first charter was given to the First National Bank of Philadelphia. An interesting side note of the chartering process was language in the 1863 legislation which did not allow banks to use their original name but in fact were required to use First National Bank for the first charter of a city or town. Subsequent banks from the same city or town needed to follow the numerical order of Second National Bank, Third National Bank, etc. A change in the legislation in 1864 loosened the requirement and allowed banks to use their own name but required that the word National still be part of the name.

There are three charter periods in which all notes fall into. The first charter period was from February 1863 until July of 1882 and includes notes from the "original series" of 1863 and the first charter notes of 1875. Notes were issued in denominations up through \$1,000, although \$500 and \$1,000 notes were found to be impractical and not released in subsequent charter periods. One easy way to differentiate original series notes from the 1875 first charter notes is the red seal. Original series notes have a red seal with pointed rays around the perimeter. 1875 notes have a red seal with a scalloped pattern.

One especially popular first charter note is the "Lazy Deuce" note. It has a large horizontal two across the top right hand side of the note with a regular vertical two in the base. There are many elaborate vignettes pictured on first charter notes including Sir Walter Raleigh in England in 1585 smoking American tobacco, DeSoto discovering the Mississippi in 1541, and the Baptism of Pocahontas.

The second charter period was from July 1882 through April 1902. In addition to the high denominations being dropped, there were no \$1 or \$2 denominations produced. There are three types of second charter notes. Brown backs have the reverse printed in brown with the charter number printed in large green numbers on the reverse. Date backs have the large dates 1882-1908 printed on the reverse. Value backs have the spelled out value across the back such as "TEN DOLLARS." Five dollar second charter notes displayed a profile of President James Garfield, who had been assassinated in 1881, seven months into his presidency. The practice of using profiles would become standard on the obverse of all third charter notes.

The third charter period was from April 1902 through April 1922. Denominations were the same as the second charter including \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. Different type notes include red seal notes, which are the rarest of the third charter notes, and blue seal notes which are separated into two types. Date back notes have a smaller version of the date than second charter notes on the reverse. Plain back notes are the most common and have no date or value designation on the reverse. Vignettes were delegated to the reverse and were much simpler in design.

As with many currencies, individual types are further broken down by the different signatures of the Treasurer of the U.S. and the Register of the Treasury. These can be referenced by the different Freidberg number designations. In addition to these machine printed signatures on the notes there are bank specific signatures. The President of the bank and the Cashier hand signed or in some cases rubber stamped their signatures.

The printing of bank notes was handled by three companies through 1875. These included the American, Continental and National Bank Note Companies. From 1875 through 1877 the Bureau of Engraving and Printing printed the obverse of the notes while the Bank Note Companies printed the reverses. As of October of 1877 all of the printing was handled by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

National Bank Notes are usually collected by types, states or cities/towns. Earlier types are usually scarcer and higher priced. The higher the denomination the more costly the note as a general rule. Some states or towns did not issue many notes. Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico territories are very rare. New Mexico and Arizona notes are rare. In New Hampshire, seventy one different banks were chartered. Manchester had six banks chartered and Portsmouth five to top the list. Nashua had four banks chartered, as did Keene and Dover. More remote towns including Gonic and Francestown each had one bank chartered.

Third charter notes from New Hampshire are considered fairly common. Some first and second charter notes are considered tougher and priced at a premium over "common" notes.

Prices for National Bank Notes vary. One the low end, prices for circulated plain back third charter notes can be found for about \$100. Prices climb from there for other types, with many reaching into the thousands of dollars.

The standard reference "Paper Money of the United States" by Arthur and Ira Freidberg provides more general information about National Bank Notes. There is a "Red Book" paperback version that is less complete and covers notes from 1861 to date. For the connoisseur, Don Kelly has put out a comprehensive book on National Bank Notes.

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## *NEXT MEETING*

*9 July at The Nashua Library,  
Nashua, NH*

*JULY'S COIN OF THE  
MONTH*

*Paper Money from  
ANYWHERE*



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

July 2008  
Volume 12 Number 7  
Whole Number 149

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
9 July 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Fourteen members were present. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Correspondence included the usual magazines and mail offers, plus our library meeting room confirmation for 2008-2009. We will continue to meet in the same room on the current meeting day of second Wednesday's. In old business, the search continues for a suitable banquet location for our October meeting. Our webmaster Steve will be working on placing member written articles on our website. A reminder was made of the upcoming coin roadshow at the Nashua Senior Center

Fred discussed his very interesting article on Biafra currency and showed examples from his collection. This led us to the coin of the month which was paper money. We had some really great material this month. Cliff showed a \$10 National currency from NY series 1929. He also showed a Hawaii overprint \$1 silver certificate and a series 1963 US note \$5. Ken Y. passed around an Algeria 5 Franc from 1942 and a state of NC \$1 from Raleigh dated 1861. Dan sent around the table a colorful collection of notes from Belize, Armenia, Spain and Sweden. Frank had some military payment certificates and various foreign notes. Jim some Philippine currency. A ten peso and a one peso. Steve had a fabulous collection of \$1 silver certificates including an 1896 educational and an 1899 black eagle. He also had a 1917 Russian \$1000 Ruble that was made for only a 7 month period. Todd showed his collection of US fractional currency as well as a book of large size currency including an 1862 \$1 and several gold certificates. Shane sent around some Afghanistan currency printed by the Taliban. Brian brought in his son's collection of animal currency including notes from Belarus, Rwanda and Antarctica.

The attendance raffle of \$3.50 was won by Brian. Ken Y. won the COTM drawing which included in addition to the current \$1 FRN's a couple silver certificates series 1957 A and 1957 B as well as a German 2 Mark note and an Armenian 10 from 1993.

Show and Tell had Cliff with packaged BEP \$1, \$2, and \$5 star notes. He also had the presidential signature set Washington dollar. Charlie showed a counterstamped coin, Indian coin and a medal from Brazil. Steve had the 2008 US proof set. Fred showed a Canadian 1971 proof set. Brian had a late 1800's newsprint page of why banks won't take gold coin. Ken Y. showed a 1967 June issue of the Numismatist. Ken C. showed his outstanding and unusual book of coins found with his metal detector.

The next COTM is short lived series or denominations. Try to keep at 10 years or less. The meeting was closed at 8:40PM. The next meeting is 13 August.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2008

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

30 Jul-3 Aug - ANA Baltimore

\*? Jul/Aug - Unc Mint Set

\*? Jul/Aug - American Buffalo Unc Coins

10 Aug - Auburn

10 Aug - Keene

13 AUG - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

\*14 Aug - Andrew Jackson Dollar Release

17 AUG - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

24 Aug - Westford

\*25 Aug - Alaska 25¢ Bags & Rolls

\*26 Aug - Silver Proof Set

\*28 Aug - Jackson's Liberty 1st Spouse Coin &

Medal

31 Aug - Concord, NH

10 SEP - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13 Sep - Portland

14 Sep - Auburn

21 SEP - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

8-20 Sep - Long Beach



## Notice To All Members

Fellow member, Brian Maxfield will be arriving at the meeting a half hour early. He will be bringing coins from a recent collection that he bought and will be selling these items for prices under bid. He would like to see these coins go out to the collectors at good prices than to turn them over to dealers and let them mark them up for the collector. So, come prepared at 6:30 and feel free to review the merchandise, but don't forget to bring you wallet and checkbook. See you at the meeting.

## News from Southwest Florida

*If you haven't heard, the Red Sox are considering moving from Fort Myers to Sarasota for spring training. This will put them approximately 10-20 minutes from my house depending on what location they chose, Oops, forgot this is about coins.*

*I find it interesting that despite all the bad news about the economy the coin shows seem to be doing pretty good. The only folks unloading precious metals are those who inherited collections etc. Club membership is up in the two clubs that I belong to. People seem to be still buying. The area that seems to be taking off is currency. I don't pretend to understand any of this. Perhaps others understand this? Anyway the hobby seems to be doing well here in "retiree land."*

*Word "on the street" is that the folks in another nearby community are looking to start a club. This will provide three different clubs within a 20 mile radius of where I live.*

*Best wishes to all.....Bart*

## *One year Wonders or Thereabouts*

*F.A. Liberatore*

*Short lived coin series are usually due to a miscalculation or unforeseen events. They provide good conversation pieces for coin collectors and at times, rare and valuable coins.*

*We've had a classic example of this in the United States in the once much maligned 20 cent piece. In terms of decimal utility the denomination is more sensible than a quarter and is often found in foreign coin issues rather than a quarter. However the US quarter dollar had been in wide use for more than 80 years when the similarly designed 20 cent piece was issued of nearly the same diameter as the quarter dollar. The twenty cent pieces passed too often as a quarter and the loss/gain was troublesome since 5 cents had real purchasing power at that time when wages were a dollar a day. Effectively, after the first year of issue the mintages are low to minute. This classic mint error was dropped pretty fast.*

*A famous philosopher stated that "Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it", and that applies to the US Mint and the Susan B. (Ugly) Anthony dollar which is the same color and so close to the quarter in size that it passed at times for a quarter. I personally received one in change as a quarter. They were twice issued briefly in huge numbers and were a dismal flop. The Sac dollar may be going down the same path although the mint did learn to change the color of the coin. No Sac dollars have been struck as of July and they are not in the current proof sets.*

*In the foreign coin area there are many classic brief issues. All coins specifically associated with the Mexican Revolution issued from 1913-1917 are usually 1 year issues. Some were issued for only a few weeks! None are really common and many are quite scarce or rare. Strife made these coins what they are. Africa has had several late 19th and 20th century brief issues. The Boer African Republic issued coins for just a few years before the grisly and protracted Boer War ended these issues, mostly from 1892-1897. Katanga, a rebel province of the former Belgian Congo, now Zaire, issued coins in 1961. The copper pieces are inexpensive and I even found one in a junk box but it is likely, they are actually a scarce item. Biafra's coins are scarce and were due to a rebellion. All are dated 1969. The first issue of independent Mozambique dated 1975 is rare due to the assassination of the president and general turmoil.*

*Ever hear of Kiau Chau? It was a German enclave and trading port on the coast of China and issued 5 and 10 cent coins in 1909. WW1 ended the colony and any further issues. The coins are rare. Most German New Guinea coins are dated 1894 and were issued by the German New Guinea Company. Most are classic rarities. Curiously, no more were issued even though the colony lasted until 1914 when ended by Australian occupation as a part of WW1. Crete had a distinctive coinage for just 2 years 1900-1901. Today, Greek coinage is used there since the island is now a part of Greece. Several Canadian Provinces had brief issues including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Finally, Zimbabwe recently dropped ten zeros from the currency and will issue new coins. I predict inflation will make them a 1 year issue. Happy Collecting*

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## *NEXT MEETING*

*13 August at The Nashua  
Library, Nashua, NH*

## *AUGUST'S COIN OF THE MONTH*

*Short Lived Coin Series  
from Anywhere*





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

August 2008  
Volume 12 Number 8  
Whole Number 150

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
13 August 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:01PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twelve members and one guest were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. There was no Treasurer's Report nor correspondence due to the absence of the Secretary. Our guest was Christopher Yunni who got his collection from his dad and wanted to learn more about it. Each member introduced himself and told a bit about what he collected.

Under Old Business, we are still looking into a venue for the banquet in October. Bob said he would check out the China Garden on Amherst Street. The Coins Roadshow did not happen as there were only three signups and the Senior Center pulled the plug. Those three showed up anyhow as did our Ken Camilleis who did great work with them. The Senior Center sent us a check for \$22.50 which was half the take. We will try again in October. Bob relayed a query from the ANA about an item from last month – Why wouldn't banks take gold coins? The answer was that the coins were worn enough so their intrinsic value was below face value. Fred asked if anyone had seen a 2008 nickel – nobody had. Maybe the Mint/Fed has no incentive to release them.

ANA Reports: Charlie took a bus to Baltimore from Concord, an all day ride. He stayed for one day, sold some coins, bought some, saw fantastic exhibits, got back on the bus to return home. Bob said he had a busy show as usual what with exhibiting (winning First in Class), judging, speaking, attending meetings, emceeing banquets, and assuming the Presidency of the Token and Medal Society. His Hard Times Token presentation won an award from the Numismatic Literary Guild for the Best Non-Commercial Video. He showed a couple of tokens from the Strasburg Railroad in Pennsylvania that he had elongated at the ANA with The Elongated Collectors design, and gave four elongateds from the show to each member. The NH Coin and Currency Expo is coming up in October and NCC will share a table with NENA and ANA. NENA will be sponsoring the

ANA Traveling Seminar "Intermediate Coin Grading", so sign up now.

Bob won the attendance raffle of \$3.25. After the break, Coin of the Month was short-lived series. Fred summarized his article about Congress making the error of mandating the 20¢ coin. Jim showed one alongside a contemporary quarter that looked virtually the same. Bob showed Italian wartime coinage and noted that the fasces was shown on coins by the Italians and the US at the same time. He also showed a size reduction for the 100 Lire series that only lasted for three years from 1990-92. This stimulated conversation about wartime occupation coinages. Ken Y had a Vichy France 1943 2 Franc, which technically was not occupation coinage, and a 1944 Belgium 25 Centimes in zinc that was. The raffle included a 1974 20 Chetrum F.A.O. coin from Bhutan, two ANA/TEC rolled coins, a 1776-1776 Ike Dollar, a 1971 British Honduras 25¢, and a 79P and 79D SBA dollars. Jim won the pot.

For Show and Tell, Fred showed some circulated Proof coins that the Franklin Mint had struck for Caribbean nations. The proof sets were worthless except for a "premier coin" that was quickly removed from the set and the rest spent on vacation. Steve showed 2008 Mint Sets. Cliff had a 2008 British Proof Set with the new designs, and Bob brought three large heavy Polish medals depicting various heroes. Jim had a pile of unwanted books purchased at the Centennial Auction that he gave away. The meeting ended with talk about the auction. The next Coin of the Month is Proof Coins and Sets. Due to the high cost associated with them, there will be no raffle.

The meeting was closed at 8:55.PM. The next meeting is 10 September.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert F. Fritsch  
Recording

## *Trends in Proof Coins Through The Ages*

*Fred Liberatore*

*It is really easy to write about ancient and medieval proof coins. There weren't any to my knowledge and I've read a lot of books on these coinages. This is not to say that special issues did not occur which were often multiples of weights of standard coins and had special designs. The decadrums of Syracuse are an example of this as are the Roman multiples especially of the 4th century. However these coins were not proofs by any stretch of the imagination. I know of nothing special about any early medieval issues and this holds true until the beginning of the 17th century. There are special Spanish coins known as "Royals." These were issued at the same time as the cobs which were lumps cut from bars and crudely struck. Often much of the die design was off the flan. Royals were round, fully struck and otherwise a pleasing coin to behold. They were special presentation pieces.*

*The earliest proof I was able to readily locate was a English half crown struck in 1715. It actually makes sense that the English would be first with proof coins because machinery helps make it possible and that is where the industrial revolution began. It is also where the wealth was a bit better spread out and collector demand could begin. There may be proofs struck elsewhere but those of the 18th century must be quite rare.*

*Proof coinage picked up in the 19th century. For example France began issuing essais beginning about 1856. I expect they are proof coins in our sense of the word. Irregular yearly proof set issues of English proof coins began in 1821. The good old US Mint, Philadelphia, began proof coinage in the 1st quarter of the 19th century something that occurred with increasing frequency until it became a yearly thing. Proof coins began appearing in other nations, for example Prussia, and as the century wore on became more common. Still, all 19th century proofs are rare beasts even if not of exceptional value.*

*Matte proofs are an interesting type of proof coin that appeared in the late 19th century and were made until at least 1917 for our Lincoln cent. The dies are deliberately very finely abraded giving the coins struck a dull finish. It is similar to the frosting seen on the raised devices of many modern proofs. (I once saw an 1898 French franc of the sower for sale in matte proof and regret not buying it. I've never seen another one for sale.)*

*Brilliant proofs are what were struck after WW1. They were issued by many countries. There are Canadian specimen sets from this era which I expect are really proofs. England issued some proof sets, usually with the inauguration of a new monarch. Proof coins are known for all issues of the Third Reich of Nazi Germany. They were a prestige and propaganda items. There were US proof coins from 1936-1942. Although valuable due to demand they are for the most part not rare.*

*The era after WW2 might be described as the continuing and golden age of proof coinage. Many countries have issued proof coins for collectors. They have become big money makers for many mints and countries. Proof issues in the tens of thousands are not uncommon and can reach into the millions. Brilliant proofs have given way to frosted proofs. Most modern proofs are either common or if rare not of great value. Seem odd? Go to any coin show and most proofs from 1950 on are available. This is not so for many foreign proofs. Happy Collecting*

## *My Proof is in the Pudding . . . Should I Clean It?*

*Randy Bullis*

*Two excellent reference books I own on proof coins are:*

*Cameo and Brilliant Proof Coinage of the 1950 to 1970 Era, by  
Rick Tomaska*

*And*

*United States Proof Sets and Mint Sets, by Ron Guth and Bill Gale*

*The first book concentrates mainly on cameo proof coins and includes some excellent photographs and some in depth study of the potential mintages of those cameos. For example, did you know that the 1961 Lincoln Cent is the toughest Deep Cameo Proof to locate?*

*The second book details the minting process and what coins came with each proof and mint set. The cost of those sets and even some of the world events during that year.*

*For example, did you know that the 1950 proof coins come in both satin and mirror finish?*

*Want to know more? Pick up these great books and enjoy!*





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## ***NEXT MEETING***

***10 September at The Nashua  
Library, Nashua, NH***

***SEPTEMBER'S COIN OF  
THE MONTH***

***Proof Coins and Sets***

# Senior

## ACTIVITY CENTER

August 30, 2008

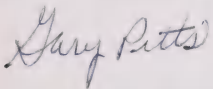
Dear Owner or Manager

I have enclosed a flyer for a Coin Road Show that is being held at the Senior Activity Center on October 25th, and I would appreciate it if you could post it in your facility if possible.

As the flyer states, there will be no appraisals, only identifying coins which may be of value, and at the show we are going to pass out a resource list of coins shops like yours where they could go for more information.

If you would like to be on our resource list, please email me at [garybobbpitts@yahoo.com](mailto:garybobbpitts@yahoo.com) or send the information to the Senior Center in care of Gary Pitts. I would like this information by October 1st in order to put the list together.

Thank you for your support of the Senior Activity Center.



Gary Pitts  
Assistant Activities Director



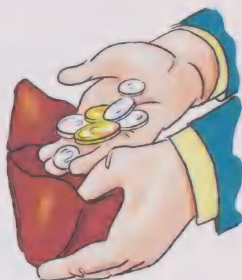


# Coin Roadshow

## Saturday

### OCTOBER 25, 2008

### 10-12pm



Members of the Nashua Coin club will be available to assist you in identifying and separating your valuable coins from common place ones and "estimate their value".

#### **U.S. Coins only**

This is not a true appraisal  
and valutors will not buy your coins.

**DO NOT CLEAN OR POLISH COINS** as it reduces  
the value.

\$10.00 for an 8 oz container (provided at the door).

Each additional container is \$5.00.

\$2.00 fee for all others to enter the show.

**Senior Activity Center**

**70 Temple St., Nashua NH**

**Call (603) 889-6155 to register**

**Pre-registration necessary - NO WALK INS**





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

September 2008  
Volume 12 Number 9  
Whole Number 151

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
10 September 2008

The meeting was opened at 7:01PM by Vice President Steve Pearsall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Thirteen members and one guest were present. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a correction to reflect Ken Young as winner of the COTM drawing. The Treasurer's Report was read and approved. Usual magazines and mail comprised the correspondence. Our guest was Christopher Yunni.

The Club banquet was discussed. It will be held at the same location as last year. Nathaniel's Family Eatery at 537 Amherst St, Nashua, NH. It will be held on Columbus Day, October 13 with cocktails at 6 and meeting/dinner at 7. The dinner charge will remain unchanged from last year at \$5 for members and \$10 for guests with a cash bar available.

Nominations and voting took place for this year's awards which will be presented at the banquet.

The NH Coin and Currency Expo will be held October 10-12 at the Raddison Hotel in Manchester. We will have a table set up inside which needs to be manned. Volunteers were requested to help cover the table over the course of the weekend to help promote the Nashua Coin Club and answer questions.

Bob Fritsch provided an update of the Nashua Senior Center Coins Roadshow event. It is taking place at the Nashua Senior Center on Saturday October 25 from 10 to 12. Volunteers from the club were asked to help review the coins brought in.

Discussed was the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Club in 2010. Ideas for medals were thrown about. Randy will investigate challenge coins and bars. Counterstamps were another possibility. Bob mentioned that he will have 6 committees for the ANA 2010 Boston event that will need staffing. He is still looking to sign up volunteers.

The attendance raffle of \$3.50 was won by Todd. This was followed by Coin of the Month which was proof

coins. There was a good amount of excellent material. Bob showed his final year of British pound shilling pence and first year of British decimal coinage 1970-1971. He also passed around an Ostereich 1964 Olympic set, British 1988 and 1990 sets as well as a 1967 Singapore set. Jim Hand had a 2008 US silver proof set. Gil sent around his 1950 US proof set, Ikes from 1972 and 1973 as well as his prized 1995 W PF 69 D Cam silver eagle. Todd had his 1909 matte proof Lincoln cent in PF65 and his 1909 Barber dime in PF65. Randy had a 1962 Franklin in PF65 as well as a nice 1954 Cameo Franklin graded PF 66 Cam. Randy added to last months COTM by bringing a 1911 short ray and a 1912 Mexican Caballito representing the short series of peso coins. Fred showed some very interesting matte proof vs traditional proof Jamaican 5 cent pieces (1972 and 1977). He also showed the same occurrence with British Virgin Island 5 cent coins from 1973. Charlie had a Netherlands Antilles 1993 coin that was determined to be unc and a nicely packaged 2005 proof set from the French Mint. Steve showed a US 1955 box proof set, a 1956 and a 1957 with a cent strike through. Brian passed around Jefferson's Liberty proof as well as a Washington Medal (1850-1859) from the Philly Mint in silver.

Charlie finished his ANA report from last month. For additional show and tell, Ken Camilleis showed a recent detecting find of a 1787 Fugio Cent with pointed rays. He had found it in Winchester 4 inches under.

We will have a coin of the month at the banquet. It will be 'my favorite coin' and as such there will be no raffle.

The meeting was closed at 8:55.PM. The next meeting is the annual banquet 13 October.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Salmon  
Secretary



# *Uncirculated and Matte or Matte Proof?*

F. A. Liberatore

*Beginning in the late 1960's an effective business combination began between two independent firms, Paramount International Coin Corp. and the Franklin Mint. Their game plan was to convince nations new and some well established to market proof coins and unc coins to collectors. It was a very effective strategy especially with small nations, newly independent, or those in the British Commonwealth in the Caribbean area particularly. The coins sets were actually done in three grades, frosted proofs (long before the US Mint caught on to this) brilliant uncirculated, and a matte uncirculated (the US Mint figured this out in 2005.)*

*I bought many of these coins in proof directly from the usual source, Paramount. I skipped the unc and matte unc series if they were even generally offered. The proof coin sets in the end turned out as OK investments largely because of the heavy, prestige silver coins in them. Silver at that time was in the \$2 range so the price of the sets was low in spite of the precious metal content. As you might expect the matte and unc sets were issued in low numbers, many in the range of a few thousand or less. This coin issuing pattern ended in the 1980's*

*As a collector, I simply have never seen any of the matte sets at coin shows. They are often that scarce but curiously of low catalog value. Finally, I have managed to acquire 4 of these coins, all minors,, 3 from Jamaica and one from the British Virgin Islands. Proof coins to compare them against are readily available. These matte uncs are really matte proofs in my opinion. They have all the detail of the proofs. I suspect that proof dies were frosted to strike the "unc" coins. It would have been a very sensible business decision.*

*Why have they finally appeared? Well, those big, clunky silver coins finally made it worthwhile to break the sets up and sell the silver for scrap. The minor coins are being dumped for chump change. I am having a field day hunting coins such as these for my collection. My motto has always been "buy the low mintage, inexpensive, unpopular coins and see what happens." Happy Collecting.*

## *Editor's Note*

Randy Bullis

*The leaves are falling all around the house today. That must mean it's time for two great events in New Hampshire. No, I'm not talking about the Mass exodus onto our highways to see dying leaves. I'm talking about the NH Coin Exposition and shortly after, the Nashua Coin Club's annual awards banquet. Two great events that shouldn't be missed.*

*I have the materials ready for our table at the coin expo such as raffle tickets, raffle box, club brochures, trivia quiz sheet, young numismatist brochures, and some meeting agenda sheets. I will be dropping them off on Friday and setting up the table. I will also be hanging around during the afternoon to talk to people. I won't be able to make Saturday's show, however, on Sunday I will return to clean up and take home the raffle box.*

*The awards banquet is being held at Nathaniels restaurant on Amherst Street. The meeting starts at 7 PM, but feel free to come early for cocktails. I know I will. Don't forget that the Coin of the Month is your favorite coin. No, not two coins, YOUR FAVORITE coin. And a story for why it is your favorite coin.*

*Oh yeah, one more thing..... We had some excellent nominations for awards and the Literary award is between two members. The winner is @#\$\$\*#&#@^\$. Darn keyboards not working.*

*Looking forward to seeing you all at both!*

## *Decimal Coinage and Dimes*

*F.A. Liberatore*

*The idea of a decimal coinage belongs to the men who were involved in the French Revolution which lasted from 1789 to 1796 when Napoleon overthrew the Directory and tamed the Paris mob with a "whiff of grapeshot." I expect that both Franklin and Jefferson were aware of the idea of a decimal coinage.*

*The first French decimal coins are dated L'An 2 which corresponds to 1793-1794. Our first decimal coins appeared as patterns in 1792 and included a cent, half disme and disme. Regular coinage cents began in 1793, of silver half dimes in 1794, and dimes in 1796. The first French ten centime piece did not appear until 1807 under Napoleon. So I would argue that the United States was the first nation to have a regular decimal coinage in full bloom shortly followed by the French. I would also argue that the silver dime sized coin was a brilliant invention of the US Mint.*

*Dimes have become a popular in a number of decimal coinage systems. Among these are Canada, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Panama, The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rica, Hawaii, The Philippines and Ecuador. When struck in silver the coins are often 0.900 fine and weigh 2.5 grams which just happens to be the specifications of a standard US silver dime. You will note that all of these countries are in the Western Hemisphere where the influence of the economic giant (that's us) would be most pervasive or they became dependencies of the United States.*

*Finally, decimal coinage systems the world over use a 10 cent piece but often not of our dime size. Curiously we use a 25 cent piece when most other decimal systems have opted for a 20 cent piece. I guess it is what you are used to using. A collection of silver dimes from the various countries would be fun to assemble but beware Puerto Rico and Hawaii. These dimes are both 1 year types and are rare in ALL grades and in much demand too. Happy Collecting*

## *SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2008*

*Bob Fritsch*

*\* = Mint Release*

*10-12 Oct - NH Coin & Currency Expo / NENA, Manchester*

*13 OCT - NCC BANQUET, Nathaniels Restaurant, 7PM*

*19 OCT - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN*

*26 Oct - Westford*

*\*? Nov - Hawaii 25¢ Bags & Rolls*

*\*? Nov - Martin Van Buren \$1 Bags/Rolls*

*\*? Nov - Van Buren's Liberty 1st Spouse Coin/Medal*

*9 Nov - Auburn*

*12 NOV - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM*

*12-16 Nov - Bay State Boston*

*\*13 Nov - Martin Van Buren Dollar Release*

*16 NOV - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN*

*20-22 Nov - Baltimore*

*23 Nov - Westford*

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*NEXT MEETING  
13 October at Nathaniels  
Restaurant Nashua, NH*

**OCTOBER'S COIN OF THE  
MONTH**  
*Your Favorite Coin*





# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

October 2008  
Volume 12 Number 10  
Whole Number 152

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## President's Message

Cliff Lo Verme

*Thanks to all of you that attended the annual awards banquet in October. Everyone present seemed to enjoy themselves. I would like to congratulate our award winners, Fred Liberatore who received both the Literary award and the Numismatic Achievement award, and Charlie Dube who received the Gold Medal award. Charlie was not present at the banquet so I will have the privilege of presenting him his award at our next meeting. I received a "Past Presidents" medal from the club, for which I am thankful. I will have it at the November meeting for anyone who would like to see it.*

*Also due congratulations for noteworthy achievement is our Director, Bob Fritsch, who won the exhibit competition at the NH Expo coin show. And finally, congratulations to Ken Camilleis who after 36 years of metal detecting found his 200,000th coin! It was just a clad dime, but he has found all sorts of exciting treasures in his years of hunting. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.*

## Congratulations to our newest members

*We would like to welcome Jack Hoadley and Joseph Barton to the Nashua Coin Club. Jack visited us at the October Awards Banquet and decided to sign up and check out some meetings. Joseph was our raffle winner from the New Hampshire Coin Exposition held in Manchester in October. Welcome aboard gentlemen. We hope you can attend some meetings and get to know the group.*

# American Colonial Coinage of the 19th and 20th Centuries

F. A. Liberatore

*The United States has never been an aggressive colonial power but has acquired colonies due to happy purchases, oddball revolutions (we encouraged them) and the unintended consequences of foreign wars.*

*Alaska was a very fortunate purchase by Secretary of State Seward in 1867. At the time it seemed that Russia had sold a wasteland for a fortune in gold but the subsequent extraction of seals, whales, fish, gold, timber, and most recently oil and gas have made Alaska a treasure chest of legendary size.*

*Alaska has never had an officially sanctioned coinage. Tokens are known from a number of cities and organizations for a total of 90 or so including multiple denominations from the same issuer. The Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation "bingles" of 1935 are the most famous and were issued under government sponsorship in 1 cent through \$10 values and served as money for about 2 years. A grand total of 24,000 pieces were made and except for 250 full sets and 100 short sets of 1-10 cents most were redeemed. They are really rare and I could only find one on ebay for sale at \$135 to start for an ARRC aluminum dollar. No early Alaska tokens were listed.*

*Hawaii became a US territory via a bloodless revolution by the largely American oligarchy in 1893. There are around 80 coins, tokens and medals attributed to Hawaii. The first coin of the islands was issued in 1847 by Kamehameha III and possibly was done from dies prepared in Massachusetts where it was also struck. No documentation exists to support this contention however. Although the issue was 100,000, most of the coins were discarded as the natives didn't like them. Today they are an unusual find. Coins were again struck for Hawaii in 1883 at the San Francisco Mint from the dime to the dollar to US coin specifications. All of these coins are uncommon and command a good price. The quarter in fine is a \$50 coin, the cheapest of the series. No early Hawaiian tokens appeared on ebay and the 1883 coins were all listed but no 1847 large cents.*

*Puerto Rico became a US possession in 1898 after a hasty war with Spain over the sinking of the US battleship Maine. (It is likely the sinking was due to a boiler explosion rather than sabotage.) Plantation and merchant's tokens were heavily used on the island. There are over 225 types known. Counter stamped coins were also an official currency. Finally, Spain issued a unique coinage for the island in 1895-6 from 5 centavos to 1 peso. Most of these coins were withdrawn and melted after the arrival of the US occupation of the island. Today they are all scarce and command a premium even when holed, soldered or otherwise damaged. Ebay had a number of variously abused pieces for sale but nothing really decent. Curiously a good selection of 19th century hacienda tokens was available.*

*The Philippines were the other major acquisition of the Spanish-American war. Although occupied in 1898 the islands were not really secure until 1903 after a native revolution was defeated by the US Army. Spanish coinage was intermittent and included counter marked silver pieces until 1861 when a regular coinage was instituted. This lasted until 1897 and was in copper, silver, and gold from one centavo in copper to 4 pesos in gold with a full range of denominations. For a number of denominations 1868 was a frozen date and a large number of pieces were struck bearing that date. Most of these coins are a bit pricey and I expect not all that common. Official US coinage began in 1903 and ranged from the 1/2 centavo (soon relegated as useless and good only for buttons and dropped), the centavo, copper alloy, the nickel in copper nickel, and 10 centavos through 1 peso in silver. The silver coins were 0.900 fine and similar to US coins in size and weight which proved to be disastrous when silver prices rose in 1906. More than 90 % of these coins were recalled and melted for a new issue in 0.800 fine silver, at a reduced size. The issue of these coins was somewhat irregular during the teens, twenties and thirties with a heavy issue of 1-50 centavo pieces in 1944-5, during WW2. They are common today as many came home in GI's pockets as souvenirs. Proof sets were made of Philippine coins from 1903-1908. All are rare. Curiously 6,247 unsold sets of 1904 were released into circulation in the Philippines as ordinary coin (groan.)*

*The US Virgin Islands were once the Danish West Indies until purchased to protect the Panama Canal in 1914.*

# Metal Detecting Pays Off

Ken Camilleis

Hello everyone,

Today I surpassed the (estimated) 200,000-coin mark!

Thirty-six years behind a control box ... I took my first "swing" on May 30, 1972 and found my first coin on June 9, a post-1964 Lincoln cent in my back yard (that I may have even lost!). My 200,000th coin was almost as innocuous - a clad dime. Out of 200,001 coins, 132,929 of them (66.46%) were "spending" coins dated 1965 and later. However, it was the other 67,072 coins (33.54%) that has made TH'ing worthwhile all those years!

I say "estimated" because in the first twelve years, before I joined the MTHA, I did not keep records of Memorial cents, Jefferson nickels, clad dimes and quarters but just tossed them into a big plastic bucket. Every so often I emptied the bucket and banked the coins. Based on the amount deposited from 1972-83, it is unlikely the estimate I figured at the beginning of 1984 was off by more than 5000 coins plus or minus. So for sure the actual number is between 195,000 and 205,000 coins.

Happy Trails and hopefully I'll see most of you on Nov 12!

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2008

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

\*3 Nov - Hawaii 25¢ Bags & Rolls

9 Nov - Auburn

9 Nov - Portland

12 NOV - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

12-16 Nov - Bay State Boston

\*13 Nov - Martin Van Buren Dollar Release

16 NOV - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

20-22 Nov - Baltimore

23 Nov - Westford

\*25 Nov - Van Buren's Liberty 1st Spouse Coin/Medal

10 DEC - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13 Dec - Portland

14 Dec - Auburn

21 DEC - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

28 Dec - Westford

## American Colonial Coinage of the 19th and 20th Centuries continued

Under Danish rule the islands have a rich coinage history going back to the early 18th century and continuing until 1913. These coins are available albeit a bit pricey. Several dozen merchant's tokens are known from the late 19th century. Ebay listings for these coins and tokens were sparse which is not what I had expected.

Readers might be surprised to see the inclusion of Panama as a US colony but the inception of the nation as a breakaway province of Colombia was really by US intrigue in order to secure the Canal Zone, a 10 mile wide strip of land bridging the isthmus for the location of the canal. Panama's coinage is on par with the US dollar and in most cases the denominations, sizes, and metals mimic US coinage. Panama's independence has been accepted as long as it does not interfere with the free use of the canal by all nations.

I am indebted to 6 different authors who covered these coinages in great detail in 1962 in a series of black paperbound booklets published by Whitman in 1962. They are loaded with fascinating information. I will bring them to the meeting and hope that club members bring specimen of the coins and tokens of these entities to the meeting. Happy Collecting.

\*\*\*\*\*

A personal note to Nashua Coin Club members: I was pleased to receive the Literary Award and thank you all for it. I like to write for the bulletin so it didn't surprise me. However, I was shocked to receive the Numismatic Award. There is no finer recognition than peer recognition. Thank you again. Best Regards to all of you and Happy Collecting. Fred



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**NEXT MEETING**  
*12 November at The Nashua  
Library, Nashua, NH*

**NOVEMBER'S COIN OF THE  
MONTH**  
*US Colonial or Territorial  
Coinage*



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

November 2008  
Volume 12 Number 11  
Whole Number 153

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

*Minutes of the Meeting  
11 November 2008*

*The meeting was opened at 7:03PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twelve members were present. Charlie Dube was presented with the Gold Medal Award as he was not present for the club banquet. The Treasurer's report for September and October was read and approved.*

*A reminder was made that the White Elephant sale is next month with proceeds going to the club. We are limiting the size and amount of items to one bag per person. Bring your unwanted and unloved items (numismatic or non-numismatic) for a second life with a fellow club member. Usual magazines and mail comprised the correspondence.*

*Talk ensued around the club history and the nearing 50 year anniversary. Several options to commemorate the event were discussed. Voted and approved was the decision to go with an elongated coin for the 2010 anniversary. Designs will be determined in the future. Bob Fritsch will obtain total cost of the die roll.*

*In other new business, our own Stan Turrini is running for the ANA Board of Governors. Although early in the process, the Club voted to nominate him for the position.*

*The attendance raffle of \$3.00 was won by Cliff and donated to the Club. This was followed by Coin of the Month which was foreign coins made in America. Fred Liberatore discussed his article in the newsletter regarding coins minted for Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Alaska and the US Virgin Islands. There were some great examples of coins circulated around the table. Brian*

*Maxfield passed around his 1909 Philippine Peso. Chuck Curfman showed his 1883 Hawaiian dime and quarter. Bob had two books on Hawaiian material; Hawaii Money Standard Catalog 2nd edition and Hawaii Official Uniform Buttons by Medcalf & Matsvoka. He also had a nice group of Maui trade dollars. Charlie brought in a great 1896 Puerto Rican 40 Centavos graded NCS F details. Fred had 1970 and 1971 Liberian proof sets.*

*For non COTM show and tell, Gill Turgeon showed his recently acquired 08 silver eagle with 07 reverse in PCGS MS69. Brian passed around his 1995 Federal Reserve Note \$1 with Ted Williams signature. Bob displayed his 2005 NGC MS70 1/10 oz gold and ship medals from USS Texas, USS New Mexico, and the USS Hawaii. Charlie told of his recent trip to France.*

*The meeting was closed at 8:55 PM. The next meeting will be the White elephant sale on December 10. January will feature the annual elections and the COTM will be coin designs with a run of 50 years or more.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Todd Salmon*

*Secretary*

## Non Circulating Legal Tender

F. A. Liberatore



*Fred cleans up on awards and Cliff is presented his presidential medal.*

## SHOW/MINT CALENDAR 2008

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

10 DEC - NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13 Dec - Portland

14 Dec - Auburn

21 DEC - 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

28 Dec - Westford

*The issue of non circulating legal tender coins has in the past 40 or so years become big business for mints public and private around the world. Most coin collectors will purchase an occasional issue. Proof issues of circulating coins do NOT fall into the NCLT category. However, off metal issues do, for example the silver proof coins of normally cupronickel issues.*

*The United States Mint has been into NCLT extensively, first with the commemorative half dollars in the first half of the 20 th century and now, since 1982 an extensive series of half dollars, dollars, gold 5 dollar pieces and higher denominations in precious metals. In examining the prices for these pieces I'd say none of them have really caught on with collectors. The coins that did catch on were the matte proof nickels issued in 1994 and 1997 with the NCLT coins. If NCLT coins are ever to become valuable collector items they likely have to fulfil three conditions proposed by Chris Wolterman in an article in the December issue of World Coin News. First the event or person should be important to the nation and its culture and the striking contemporary. Second, the coin should be of a similar metallic content to circulating coins, be of the same size, and have a denomination and design that would allow it to actually circulate if spent. And finally, the coin should not be issued in numbers beyond immediate demand, in other words a limited mintage. Have any of the US Mint's offerings since 1982 meant these conditions? I believe this is a subject worthy of a discussion at a club meeting. I would love to hear other opinions on the subject. Happy Collecting.*



## WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

1. *Bring items that you no longer want. All proceeds of the sale go to the club treasury, but you have to take home your unsold items. Bring ONLY ONE BOX PLEASE. After all, this is a library and not an auction house.*
2. *Anything is fair game. You can bring record albums, lava lamps, wine bottles, kitchenware, Thigh Master (OK, I can't let that one go), books, and maybe even a coin or two. Let your imagination soar, and let your spouse help you fill a box or two.*
3. *Some items obviously belong in the trash. Please don't bring them.*
4. *Please attach a tag describing each item and who donated it and attach it with scotch tape. The treasurer will use these tags to keep track of the sale and who buys what. There will be tags available at the meeting when you arrive.*
5. *Bring lots of money or checks so you can take home "new" treasures.*

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## *NEXT MEETING*

*10 December at The Nashua  
Library, Nashua, NH*

## **JANUARY'S COIN OF THE MONTH**

### *Long Lived Coin Series*



# NASHUA NUMISMATIST

December 2008  
Volume 12 Number 12  
Whole Number 154

## NASHUA COIN CLUB

Minutes of the Meeting  
10 December 2008

*The meeting was opened at 7:00PM by President Cliff LoVerme with the Pledge of Allegiance. Charlie Dube was appointed honorary auctioneer for the annual White Elephant sale.*

*Auction results are in: The club netted \$280.80. The top selling item was a 2004 Silver Proof Set for \$26.00. Everyone had an excellent time and we saw many great items.*

*The meeting was closed at 8:55 PM. The next meeting will be on January 14th. January will feature the annual elections and the COTM will be coin designs with a run of 50 years or more.*

*Don't forget to submit or bring your annual membership dues and club officer nominations to the January meeting.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Todd Salmon,*

*Secretary*

## Is There Gold in Them There Hills?

Ken Young

*I was at Tom's Coins, before Christmas, while I was there, three guys wanted to buy gold, any bullion type coin. Tom's reply; the market supply had shut off. Not available anywhere. Tom's comment to me; "I've lost loads of business", there is just nothing out there as gold spec items to buy. Apparently the foreign banks stopped selling gold, and it froze the market.*

## President's Message – January 2009

Cliff Lo Verme

*Happy New Year! It's 2009 now and that means that the 2010 ANA Coin Show in Boston is fast approaching. If you would like to volunteer to help put on that show please contact Bob Fritsch and he will help you sign up.*

*Also fast approaching is the 50th Anniversary of our Nashua Coin Club. We have already voted on having an elongated die made to commemorate our anniversary. We are also exploring other commemorative medal possibilities. To give us some ideas, I purchased four 1.5 inch medals from the Culver City (CA) Coin Club which recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. Each has a different finish. I will have these available for your viewing at our January meeting. I also welcome your suggestions. Please be thinking of some possible designs for our elongated die and other medals.*

*There are so many changes coming to our circulating coinage this year. Our quarter dollars will commemorate the District of Columbia and our five territories. In God We Trust moves to the obverse of the Presidential dollars. The reverse of the Sacagawea dollar begins an annual series of Native American scenes. And in honor of the 200th birthday of our beloved 16th President we will see four different reverses to the cent, each one illustrating a phase of Lincoln's life. Bob has put together a nice pictorial calendar of the release dates of these new coins. Please visit our website at [www.nashuacoinclub.org](http://www.nashuacoinclub.org) to check it out.*

*Last month's White Elephant sale was a great success. We raised over \$300 for the club and had a great time doing it. Many thanks to our Auctioneer Charlie Dube and to all those who donated and purchased items. We'll be electing new officers for the club at our January meeting. All positions are open. So please come and help direct the future of our club.*



## COIN OF THE MONTH

### Long Lived Coin Designs

F. A. Liberatore

*It would seem in numismatic history that short lived coin designs are normal. Wars and economic troubles usually cause changes in coin designs. Monarchs are another cause for coin design changes. As they age, so do their portraits. The classic example of this is Queen Victoria whose portrait as a young woman bears little resemblance to that of the dowager she became.*

*The best place to find a long lasting, uninterrupted coin series with an unchanged design would be an old time, established democratic republic. The United States is exactly this kind of nation and has a 19 th century coinage that from roughly 1838 to 1891 was largely unchanged. This is true for the Seated Liberty obverse, eagle reverse half dimes, dimes, 20 cent pieces (struck briefly), quarters, half dollars, and dollars (only to 1873.) The gold all pretty much had the same design too: a Liberty Head obverse and an eagle reverse from roughly 1839-40 to 1907 to include the \$2.50, \$ 5, and \$10 pieces. The \$20 gold piece also bore this same design from 1849-1907. Our minor coinage has also had a sameness to it. The Indian Head cent had a 49 year run, 1860-1909, while the Lincoln Head cent has had the same obverse for a remarkable run of 99 years, unchanged, while the Jefferson nickel went from 1938 to 2004 virtually unchanged for a 66 year run. The Washington quarter remained unchanged from 1932 to 1998, a total of 66 years (I'm ignoring the 1976 commemorative year.) As a collector I wonder if the Franklin dime 1946-2008 at 58 years will continue on and the Kennedy half 1964-2008 at 44 years will also be with us for a 50+ year run.*

*Long running foreign coin series are not so easy to find. Mexico had a turbulent 19th century filled with tin horn dictators and an unfortunate emperor from Europe. Their silver coinage from roughly 1825 to the early 20th century had a sameness to it. The obverse was a liberty cap and rays while the reverse featured an eagle on a cactus holding a snake, the Mexican national symbol. The Emperor, Maximilian, interrupted these coinage designs for a few years but they returned after his overthrow and execution. Curiously, none of the dictators of Mexico such as Santa Ana or Diaz put their portraits on the coinage.*

*I know of only one nation in Europe with a long lived coinage designs and none in Africa, Asia, or South America. Switzerland is the one nation with an unparalleled run for two designs. The practical Swiss began around 1879 a coinage of 5, 10, and 20 Rappen pieces in cupronickel (obverse the head of Liberty with a wreath on the reverse) and continued the design unchanged until 2004 when they were demonitized. This was a run of 125 years! Their 1/2, 1, and 2 Franc coins (obverse a standing liberty with a reverse of a wreath and denomination) began in roughly 1874 and continued until 1967 absolutely unchanged for a run of 93 years. This speaks of a deep conservatism and insular nation that by armed force insisted on neutrality while European wars literally raged around them.*

*I'm hoping other club members can add long lived series to my listing. Bring in examples for us all to enjoy. Happy Collecting.*

## SHOW/MINT

### CALENDAR 2009

Bob Fritsch

\* = Mint Release

\*5 Jan – DC/Territories Proof Set

8-11 Jan – NY International

8-11 Jan – FUN Orlando

11 Jan – Auburn

14 JAN – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

\*15 Jan – Native American \$1 Rolls

17 Jan – Portland, ME

18 JAN – 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

\*22 Jan – St Gaudens Ultra High Relief \$20

25 Jan – Westford

\*26 Jan – DC Quarter Bags/Rolls

8 Feb – Auburn

\*10 Feb – 2009 Prez Proof Set

11 FEB – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

\*12 Feb – Lincoln Silver \$1

15 FEB – 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

\*19 Feb – William Henry

Harrison \$1

22 Feb – Westford

8 Mar – Auburn

11 MAR – NCC MEETING, MAIN LIBRARY, 7PM

13-15 Mar – ANA Portland, OR

15 MAR – 3rd SUNDAY, HOLIDAY INN

20-22 Mar – Bay State Boston

26 Mar – Louis Braille Commem Silver \$1

29 Mar – Willimantic, CT





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*14 January at The Nashua  
Library, Nashua, NH*

**JANUARY'S COIN OF THE  
MONTH**

*Long Lived Coin Series*